



The Carolina DX Association

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The Pileup

Newsletter of the CDXA

CDXA Scores Big in 2006 CQWW SSB Contest

Dick Williams, W3OA

The final results of last year's CQ World Wide SSB Contest are published in the August issue of CQ. CDXA is well represented.

You may remember we tried something new last year—entering the five-man team contest. CDXA's five-man team (4X/AA4V, AA4S, N1GC, N4PQX, W4WTB) came in second place, world wide, with 9,078,007 points. And their score was more than double that of the third place team. What a great effort!

The results of the CDXA Contest Within A Contest (CWAC) have been on our web site since last December and these results allowed us to see how our members did in comparison to each other. The results in CQ allow us to see how our members did against all the other competition. Listed in a table on Page 4, in alphabetical order, are the calls of all the CDXA SSB CWAC entrants who scored in the top half of their class as listed in CQ. The last column shows the entrant's place in his class and the number

of entrants in that class. Those calls shown in bold face will receive certificates from CQ.

We hope to have similar information for the CW contest next month. We won't know how we did in the Club Competition until then because both SSB and CW results are used in computing club scores.

Mark your calendar for this year's CQWW contests. SSB is the weekend of October 26, CW the weekend of November 23. And get working on your summer antenna projects, but be sure to do it safely!

. . . continued on Page 4

CDXA PacketCluster & Other Communication Systems		
W4DXA (11 mi. NE of Mooresville)	144.93 MHz (1200 bits/second)	441.00 MHz (9600 bits/second)
K4MD Charlotte, NC	144.91 MHz (1200 bits/second)	Not Available on 9600 bits/second
NG4DX (Digi near Galax, VA)	144.95 MHz (1200 bits/second) Connect to NG4DX, then type "C W4DXA"	
K4MD (AR Cluster via Telnet)	k4md.no-ip.com	
CDXA Repeater 147.18 MHz (+600)	W4DXA, Near Fort Mill, SC	
Echolink Interconnect to CDXA Rptr.	Login to K4DXA -R	
World Wide Web Homepage	www.cdxa.org	
Wednesday Luncheon (11:30 AM)	Murphy's Food and Spirits, 131 E. Woodlawn Road, Charlotte, NC	

Scarborough Reef (BS7H) "Travelogue"

On Saturday, August 25 at 6:30PM, Joe Blackwell, AA4NN, will give us a first hand account of how it feels to sit on a 6 foot by 6 foot wooden platform mounted on a rock shaking in a 30 knot wind, in the middle of the night in the South China Sea, with only his radio and a gasoline generator to keep him company. Yes, Joe will give us an insider's view of operating from **Scarborough Reef (BS7H)**—#1 on the DXCC "most wanted" list.

The event will be held near the shores of Lake Norman in Cornelius, NC, about 15 miles north of downtown Charlotte. This location was chosen so that some of our numbers from north of Charlotte might find it a little more convenient to attend this summer event. The event will be held at Brooklyn South Pizzeria, about ¾ miles west of I-77 at Exit 28 (Catawba Avenue). Brooklyn South's address is 19400 Jetton Road, and it is located in a shopping center at the southwest corner of Catawba Avenue and Jetton Road.

Cost will be \$7.50 per person, including tip and taxes, for all the ziti and selected one-topping pizzas you can eat, salad, garlic knots (mmmm good!) and soft drinks. Beer or wine is available at your own expense. Pizza at Brooklyn South is "New York Style" and has been voted by many as some of the best pizza this side of New York City!!

Please contact Thomas Wright (n4hn@arrl.net) to indicate your attendance by Monday, August 20 so we can provide the restaurant a head count.

SEDCO Conference Coming

The South East DX and Contesting Organization (SEDCO) is putting together its Third Annual DX Conference, scheduled for Saturday, September 29, 2007 in Pigeon Forge, TN. The SEDCO Conference follows the Ten-Tec Hamfest held on September 28-29 in nearby Sevierville, TN.

Those from CDXA who have gone to SEDCO I and SEDCO II have seen it grow nicely and have been treated to a fine conference. Besides the conference, the event offers a grand time for XYLs in attendance because of the Pigeon Forge venue.

The speakers and their topics are:

Dave Anderson, K4SV: "Building your DX and Contesting Station on a Budget"

Harold Kennedy, N4GG: "HP1XX M/2 ARRL CW 2007 – Troubles in Paradise"

Joe Blackwell, AA4NN: "BS7H Operation 2007"

John Laney, K4BAI & Jeffrey Clarke, KU8E: "WRTC 2006 to Brazil"

Herman Cone, N4CH: "60 meters DXing"

Scott Robbins, W4PA: "Contesting at the VY2ZM PEI Superstation"

Willard Sitton, W4HZD: "Youth in our hobby"

Bob Allphin, K4UEE: "VU7RG, Lakshadweep Isl. (#2 most needed !)"

Convention ticket holders are eligible to participate in the raffles which include Icom and Yaesu transceivers as well as many other donated prizes. All proceeds will be going to NCDXF, INDEXA, and to help print Uncle DX's flyer, "Suggestions for DX Pileups". Separate tickets are available for the banquet and conference.

More information is available at:

<http://www.sedco.homestead.com> and at <http://radio.tentec.com/Hamfest>

KU4BP Goes West

A little bird told us recently that Ed Swiderski, KU4BP, will be going to Seattle in a temporary move (we hope!) lasting about 11 months. I guess we won't find Ed hill-topping and sending us his great pictures in VHF contests for awhile. Hurry back, Ed!

The Pileup

Official Newsletter of the Carolina DX Association
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Published monthly 10 times per year, excluding the months of June and December.

The purpose of the association is to secure for the members the pleasures and benefits of the association of persons having a common interest in Amateur Radio.

Members of the CDXA shall adhere to "The Amateur's Code" as published from time to time in *The ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs*, and shall consist of those valid licensed amateur operators having an interest in promoting amateur radio. Long distance communications (DX) is of special interest to members of the association, but said interest is not a requirement of membership.

Dues are \$30 per year for those using the PacketCluster maintained by the Association, \$15 otherwise, payable each December. Dues are payable by check to the Secretary/Treasurer:

Cliff Wagoner, W3ZL
P. O. Box 577
Davidson, NC 28036

Address, telephone, and email address changes should be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer at the above address or via email at: cliffw@adelphia.net.

My Quest for Top of the DXCC Honor Roll

By Ken Boyd, K4DXA

My DXCC quest started in 1975 with a Heath HW-101 and triband beam at 64ft. I progressed to a bigger tribander and newer tower. Then came a move to South Carolina. With more space, I felt two towers and monoband beams for 10m, 15m and 20m would meet my needs. Hurricane Hugo (1989) dismantled both towers but that's not enough to discourage a ham! I replaced the 64ft tower with a 56ft heavier duty tower and a Mosely Pro-57A. The Pro-57A worked well and gave me 3Y5X as its first country.

In 1992 I moved to back to Charlotte and sold the tower and beam. Thus starts the not so easy part of reaching the Top. At this time I had 292 entities confirmed on the current list. Now what to do? A good friend passed away and I obtained a Hustler 6BTV vertical and FL-7000 amplifier. (I still had the Alpha 76CA from SC, but I was afraid to use it in the close quarters of my residence—lest I hear an earful from my neighbors. When I got on the air with the new gear, the first country was XT2BW. Not bad. Over the next year I added PY0, S5, P4 and 5X1DX.

In June 1993, with the help of AA4U (SK), I put up a G5RV at about 50 feet. That gained me S21, RX1OX/FJL, and SV2ASP/A. That worked for me, but hams are never satisfied. I obtained 50 feet of Rohn 20G and installed my old Hornet Tribander (many will remember the eggbeaters on the ends of the elements). I also installed my 4 element, 6 meter beam above that. These changes got me back to turning an antenna—still remembering most of the beam headings.

Over the next three years with the help of a Yaesu FT-1000MP and the antenna "array", I started to feel that reaching the Honor Roll was a possibility. With my "worked" count at 301 and lots of confirmations outstanding, I started to get lazy on sending out cards. Yet with the setup I had, I managed to work TT8, 5A, H40, FO0I, FO0FR, E30, Z31, and XZ1. Finally TJ, E44, JT1, and T98 were in the log as worked, but I was still slacking on getting the QSL cards out.

I married Bev in 1998 and bought a different house in 1999. It was time to start all over with the antennas, and with 1.6 acres at my disposal, I felt lots of promise of things to come. Oh, yes, I changed callsigns from WA4UNZ to K4DXA around this time. Slowly my

confirmed entity count increased to 304 or so. I installed a Bencher HFV6 vertical with nine 33ft radials (I know, not enough, according to Jim, K4SQR!). This worked well enough to allow me to work 4W6, 5R8, T88, 9M0, BQ9P, FR5 and A52. Not too bad for only 500 watts.

Along about now I got really busy with the QSL cards, realizing that the Honor Roll was in sight. The year 2002 brought a Bencher Skyhawk to my complement of antennas—no traps and the design looked great. I installed it on a 20 foot trailer tower and with that worked 9A, VP8GEO, and VP6DI. Then I moved it up to 40 feet and, Wow! It was still not high enough, but it would just have to do for the time being. About then I replaced the HFV6 with a UniHat vertical, for 40m, 80m and 160m. Next worked were JD, P5, XU7ACT and FT5XO. In March 2001, I found myself at 320 current entities worked. Keep those cards coming. In December 2002, I received the long awaited letter from Bill (NC1L)—THE HONOR ROLL. Wow! What a feeling after all those years of chasing DX.

Move ahead to February 2005 with me sitting at 341/333. Only two to go—FT5K and BS7H. By now I felt I needed to be more competitive in contests and I had been bit by the six meter bug after the winter openings into Europe. I felt I had to do something about my verticals and towers. I wanted my twenty meter antennas to be at least a wavelength above ground. When I ran across a deal on a 70ft Tri-ex crankup, and knowing I was not getting any younger, I bit the bullet and went all the way to my preferred tower with tilt over fixture and all. I managed to get FT5K before the new tower was installed, since I didn't complete the installation overnight. But that's a story for another time! In the meantime, I also did get the two newly introduced entities—Swains Island and Montenegro. Finally, in 2007, I worked Scarborough Reef!

In retrospect, I learned that all it takes is to stick to the quest, no matter what! With shorter compromise antennas DX can be worked, and it really helps your operating skills. My first 150 countries were without high power, and at various times through the rest of the time, either no amplifier or 500 watts of amplification was all that was used. Oh, and did I tell you all entities were worked using SSB? It takes time and patience to stick with it. With those two attributes, I think most of us with smaller stations can succeed and make it to the Honor Roll.

Continued from Page 1

CDXA Scores Big in 2006 CQWW SSB Contest (con'd)

Call	Final Score	Area	Class	Place/No. in Class
4X/AA4V	3,821,658	Israel	Single Op, High Power, All Bands	1/1 Also, 2 nd Place Asia
AA4S	1,078,056	US—Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, All Bands	4/58
IS0/K7QB (IN3QBR)	46,079	Sardinia	Single Op, Low Power, 160 Meters	1/1 Also 2 nd place, World
IS0/WH0Q (IN3ZNR)	537,016	Sardinia	Single Op, High Power, 15 Meters	1/1
K4SQR	30,295	US—Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, 20 Meters	1/1
KS4S	47,310	US—Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power, All Bands	22/75
KZ2I	996,200	US—Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, All Bands	6/58
N1GC	755,187	US—Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, All Bands	8/58
N2TU	928,620	US—Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	6/54
N4BH	268,974	US—Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, All Bands	23/58
N4PQX	1,032,822	US—Call Area 4	Single Op, High Power, All Bands	5/58
W0AH (now K4LY)	732,000	US—Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power, All Bands	1/75 Also 6 th place, USA
W3OA	886,550	US—Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	7/54
W4SWT	22,969	US—Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power, All Bands	35/75
W4UNP	529,869	US—Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	12/54
W4WNT	32,010	US—Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power, All Bands	29/75
W4WTB	2,390,284	US—Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	1/54 Also 5 th place, USA
WA4DOU	88,146	US—Call Area 4	Single Op, Low Power, All Bands	15/75

Ten and Twenty Years Ago. . .

(The following items were extracted from the archives of The Pileup maintained on the CDXA website.)

Ten Years Ago

Gary Dixon, K4MQG, had just received the callsign W4DXA from the FCC as a club call for our repeater. . . Editor Don Daso, K4ZA, at the dawn of the World Wide Web age was musing how soon CDXA should consider having its own web page on the new phenomenon called the “web”. . . In the May issue, Don Daso interviewed W3LPL about his beginnings in contesting and early antenna designs. It seems as though Frank

was an early leader in pushing computerized antenna design based on a Harvard University Ph.D. thesis!

Twenty Years Ago

1A0KM was going to be on the air on weekends—(why were they away so long?). . . Roger Burt, N4ZC, was preparing his contest station for a multi-single effort in the upcoming CQWW contest. . . Bill Parris, AA4R was preparing to open his home on the shores of Lake Norman for the CDXA Annual Barbeque and “807 Disposal Party” (for the uninitiated, an 807 is not a vacuum tube designation). . . Roger Burt had also just found out that he had earned a 5th place finish as a multi-single operation in the 1986 CQWW contest.

CDXA Scores in 2007 ARRL International DX CW Contest

Dick Williams, W3OA

The final results of this year's ARRL International DX CW contest have been published. Listed below, in alphabetical order, are the CDXA entrants who scored in the top half of their class. The last column shows the entrant's place in his class in the geographic area shown and the number of entrants in that class from that area. Additionally, K4ZA was one of the operators at W3LPL, a multi-multi entrant that placed first of 15 U.S. entrants.

Call	Final Score	Area	Class	Place/No. in Class
IS0/K7QB (IN3QBR)	29,718	Sardinia	Single Op, 160 Meters 6 th among all DX stations	1/1
K0COP	5,775	South Carolina	Single Op, 40 Meters	1/1
K4CIA	287,793	North Carolina	Single Op, QRP, All Bands 3 rd Southeast Region, 6 th in W/VE	1/1
N2TU	702,690	US—Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All bands	6/51
N4AA	377,460	North Carolina	Single Op, High Power, All Bands	1/4
N4UH	159,300	North Carolina	Single Op, High Power, All Bands	2/4
W3OA	507,375	US—Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	14/51
W4ZV	55,944	North Carolina	Single Op, 160 Meters 2 nd in W/VE	1/2
W7DO	289,044	US—Call Area 4	Single Op, Assisted, All Bands	25/51
WA3GNW	59,400	South Carolina	Single Op, Low Power, All Bands	2/4
WA4DOU	402,426	North Carolina	Single Op, Low Power, All Bands	1/15

“Uncle Henry” Elwell, N4UH (SK)

With great sadness, I learned late Sunday, August 5 that “Uncle Henry” Elwell, N4UH, passed away at his home sometime on Friday, August 3 or Saturday, August 4.

This report came within hours of me producing the table above showing Henry was still an active tester. Several years ago, he wrote a note to your editor stating that he still liked contesting, “just to see if he could keep up with the young bucks”. You could always tell when Henry busted the pileups with that great rhombic setup that he engineered so well at his Cleveland, NC home-stand. He also always answered my “hello” when our paths crossed in a contest.

We hadn't seen much of Henry in recent years because he was a caregiver for his wife of many years while she

was suffering from Alzheimer's Disease.

Recently, I called Henry asking if I could pick him up and drive him to our Wednesday luncheon so that he could see his old buddies. He declined, stating he didn't like getting too far from home. I then offered to bring a few of the old gang to him for lunch in Cleveland, and that brought an enthusiastic, “YES”.

Good intentions just didn't deliver the goods, because, like many, I got busy doing other things. When I typed Henry's name above, I thought, “Now is a good time to make it happen.” Alas, too late.

I didn't know how I was going to fill this space an hour ago. I am sad I do it with this information. I only met Henry once or twice face to face, but I miss him already. 73, friend.

#1 DXCC Honor Roll—Eastern Carolina Style

Here's a note recently received in the editor's inbox:

John,

Here is a picture of three Top of the Honor Roll CDXA members.

K4CIA and N4TL worked Scarborough Reef in May of this year to make it to the top.

Robert, W4MBD, went to the top as a result of working VU4, Andaman Island in 2006. He has 351 confirmed phone and mixed.

Bill, K4CIA, was on the top in 1992. When Scarborough Reef was added he needed it to be back on top. So, when the BS7H card arrives he will have 369 confirmed phone and mixed.

Tom, N4TL, sent in his DXCC update on June 9th when the BS7H QSL showed up on LoTW. He also ordered a plaque. He now has 344 confirmed mixed.

The picture below was taken at lunch time on Friday. A number of hams get together for lunch every Friday at 11AM in the food court of the mall just south of the Raleigh Airport. If any CDXA members are in the area, stop in have lunch with us.

73 Tom, N4TL

Those CDXAers who aren't too far from Raleigh, may wish to take Tom up on his offer. You can bet your editor will come a-lookin' if he's in the Raleigh area on a Friday.



Maidenhead Gridsquare Calculators

With summertime and related VHF activity upon us, you probably have the need to use Maidenhead Gridsquares for locators. This system of locating a point on the earth was developed at a conference held in Maidenhead, England—thus the name. The purpose was to develop a concise coordinate scheme to identify any point on the Earth's surface.

The system maps the world into fields which are 20 degrees wide in longitude and 10 degrees high in latitude. Each "field" is designated by a two letter code composed of two upper case letters (A through R). Each field is in turn divided into 100 sections each 2 longitude degrees wide and 1 latitude degree high. These sections are numbered from 00 to 99 starting at the southwest corner of the field. Most VHF work uses only the four position designator, such as EM95 for Mecklenburg County, but the system also divides each 2 degree by 1 degree section into an even smaller 24 x 24 grid designated by two lower case letters (a through x). At the latitude/longitude that North Carolina resides, these last two letters result in rectangles that are approximately 5 miles wide and 2½ miles high. (This changes as you get nearer the Earth's poles!) Using the full 6 character designation, most of downtown Charlotte up to a point east of Charlotte-Douglas International Airport is designated as EM95nf.

A handy mapping system is available on the web which uses Google Maps to let you find the Maidenhead Gridsquare of *any* point on the Earth. Its URL is:

<http://f6fvy.free.fr/qthLocator/fullScreen.php>

Navigation tools allow you to move to any point on the world map. Click on it, and a "balloon" will open up giving you the latitude, longitude, and gridsquare.

If the web is unavailable, WinGrid is a nice little applet that you can run as a standalone program on your PC. WinGrid was developed by Stacey Mills, W4SM. With WinGrid, you can put in either your home grid or your home latitude/longitude and the program will compute the other item. The helpful part comes when you know a station's gridsquare or its longitude/latitude—most likely gleaned from a Cluster spot. Enter the DX gridsquare, and WinGrid will compute the latitude/longitude and the beam heading to the DX gridsquare. The easiest way to find the download site for the program is to enter "WinGrid" in your search engine, and it will take you right to Stacey Mill's website.

Good DXing!

The Back Page

What's inside??

Have you seen pictures on the **BS7H** website of those fellows sitting on the “rocks”? Do you want to know what it was like being there? Then come hear **Joe Blackwell, AA4NN**, give you a firsthand account on Saturday, August 25. For those living north of Charlotte, we've tried to make it easier than ever to attend. Details on Page 2, inside.

Results of how CDXA fared in the **CQWW SSB** contest in comparison to the world at large are provided on Page 1 and in a table on Page 4. Congratulations to the **CDXA Team Competition members who finished #2 in the World**.

SEDCO III is just around the corner—September 29, 2007. A plus is that you can couple a trip to SEDCO with a visit to the Ten-Tec hamfest at a time when the autumn colors in the mountains are great! A great venue and a great program sets this conference apart as the premier DX conference in the SouthEast. Details on Page 2.

Results of how CDXA fared in the **2007 International DX CW Contest** can be found on Page 5.

Ken Boyd (W4DXA) provides us a recap of his quest to reach #1 on the DXCC Honor Roll on Page 3.

Robert McNeil (W4MBD), Bill McDowell (K4CIA), and Tom Lewis (N4TL) strut their stuff as **#1 DXCC Honor Roll** members at their standing luncheon meeting near Raleigh. See Page 6.

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First Class Mail

See something wrong with your address label? Notify W3ZL at once, please.